

Sunday. They teach the parents to live clean lives, morally and physically, to have brighter homes, to get out of the one-room cabin, and to build homes, to care for their health, and to have an ambition for better things. They labor continuously for the moral, civil, and social uplift of their people. Their financial compensation is exceedingly meager.

An incident in connection with the experience of one of the students shows the intense interest that some of the negroes have in the uplift of their race. President McKirahan, writing of this incident, says: "There came to our school one day a rather peculiar appearing girl. She said she wanted to prepare herself for helping her people. She was near-sighted and cross-eyed. She could not see directly in front of her, nor more than a few inches at the side of her face. A book was held at the side instead of in front of her eyes. Though many times she cried out, asking me why God had made her so different from other people, she was not wholly discouraged, not even when she met two white men on her way to school one day, and one suggested to the other that she might be the devil.

"She was such a devoted and persistent student, that the teachers took her to an oculist, who treated her eyes so as to enable her to see across the room. After her graduation she returned home, but the superintendent of schools would not give her an examination. Nothing daunted, she gathered children who had no school privileges, and taught them so well that she gained the favorable attention of the superintendent, who gave her an examination and a school, and who said, at the termination of a few months of her service, 'Mary has taught the best school in my county.' She now has a school that bids fair to develop into an academy or an advanced high school. Besides her regular literary training course, she has classes in sewing and in domestic science. This is but a sample of the work that has been done by Norfolk Mission College."

The work of the principal of one of these schools for education of Negro youth is as varied as it is interesting. He is a clergyman, preaches twice on the Sabbath, teaches a Bible class, superintends a second Sabbath-school, and attends the young people's meetings — five regular services that day. He is principal of the school, numbering over six hundred, teaches two thirds of the day, prepares the course of studies for the departments, is purchasing agent buying all supplies, provides for all repairs, and during the thirteen years of his service has built, largely with his own hands, five buildings, besides making repairs. To some one

who said, "You have three men's work to do," he replied, "I do only one man's work." He sleeps only five hours of the twenty-four, and says that his wife is as busy as he, if not busier.

A great need of the school is for \$10,000 for dormitories. Many applications from young men in the North as well as in the South who wish to enter the school are refused because of the lack of dormitory room. Within easy reach of the college are four schools for colored children, with a combined enrollment of nearly two thousand. These schools are taught largely by Norfolk Mission College graduates, and are doing the same class of work along literary lines that is being done at the college. This fact indicates a condition that may make it necessary either to abandon this field, sell the property, and go elsewhere, or buy and build dormitories in Norfolk, and drawing students from the more distant places, rather than taking those who apply from Norfolk and that section of the South. An advance in the character of the curriculum seems also essential to success.

The present property of Norfolk Mission College is valued at from \$80,000 to \$100,000.

The annual expenses are \$11,500, secured by contributions from the churches. There were 22 teachers and 653 students in 1908. There are three departments of study: Primary, including seven grades; the intermediate, with six grades; and a high school department with a four years' course. The whole course requires fourteen years of study. There are frequent reviews and written examinations. Promotions are made after careful consideration of the students' efficiency. There are three manual departments: Sewing, raffia work, cooking for girls and printing for boys. Boys may take sewing (some do).

Bible study occupies a prominent place in every grade, and covers the entire book. Every Sabbath the pupils of the day school, who do not use the ferries or cars in coming to college, are required to be present at the Sabbath-school. Students of intermediate and high departments have a thorough written review in Sabbath-school lessons at the end of every second month, and a final examination at the close of the year. Eight prayer meetings are held every Wednesday. In the sewing department, girls obtain a practical knowledge of garment making and fancy work. Those completing the course are able to make their own clothing. Girls in the domestic science department are taught the care of cooking utensils, economy in the use of fuel, the composition of foods, and how to prepare them.